The Tennessee Valley Retirees Association 2007

400 West Summit Hill Drive WT2A Knoxville, TN 37902-1401 Email: tvara@tva.gov Phone: 865-632-3318 or 423-751-2070

The TVA Retirees Association

Valleywide Officers

Ron Loving, *President*Sissy Caldwell, *Vice President*

Rowena Belcher, Secretary Jim Green, Treasurer

MARCH NEW S

A NEW YEAR, A NEW LOOK, A NEW LOGO

This year is a landmark time for TVARA — we step proudly into our 40th year.

As we celebrate the rich heritage of our association and advance toward our promising future, we will do so with a new look.

The concept of a new logo for this anniversary year was presented and discussed in the round of TVARA regional meetings held with chapter officers in January.

The general consensus was that a new look was desirable to launch the commemoration of our anniversary year.

While there were some alternative suggestions offered in the meetings about color and design, most participants expressed approval for the design as presented.

As one participant said, "It captures the unique, professional partnership shared between TVARA and TVA."

The logo (part of the TVARA NEWS masthead above) will become an integral part of honoring our heritage and our future. It is specifically designed for two-color applications but is flexible enough to be effectively used in black-and-white formats and to work well with a variety of promotional products.

Let us wear our new image well.

ROWENA BELCHEREDITOR, TVARA NEWS

RON TAKES TO THE ROAD

anuary was a busy first month for newly installed TVA Retirees Association Valleywide President Ron Loving.

As promised, he traveled across the Tennessee Valley, meeting with many chapter officers to gather their ideas on how to honor this year's 40th TVARA anniversary.

Loving began each session with a summary of TVARA's two top focus areas for 2007: celebrating the past contributions and successes of TVARA and developing a long-term plan for success in the future.

Ron shared that he had not been fully aware of the long history of TVARA until Al Richie, a longtime member of the Association and lead in the Chattanooga Chapter, provided for him a detailed glimpse of its rich heritage.

"Then, after reading Lee Sheppeard's history of the organization, I came to fully appreciate what a wonderful organization TVARA is," Loving says. "I was aware of the many contributions TVARA has made to TVA, but did not realize how much impact the organization has had on the lives of so many retirees."

The conversations with the chapter officers were packed full of thoughts and ideas about how to strengthen the Association.

For example, Upper East Tennessee Chapter President Ken Rice expressed a concern echoed in every subsequent session.

He said the biggest challenge facing the TVARA is recruiting new retirees and getting them involved in the organization.

Pickwick Chapter President Charlotte Daniel, Nashville Chapter Secretary Johnnie Hosfield, and others repeated additional concerns with

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A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US FOR YOUR FILES

pid you know that there are almost 21,500 retirees who receive a pension check? That is not too far from twice the employment level of TVA these days. Think we don't make a difference? Well, who are we, anyway?

66 — Our Average Age

20 — Our Average Years of Service **7%** — Live Outside the "Valley"

53% — Are Members of TVARA*

*If you are not part of this number, you can be — join now!



From left, Upper East Tennessee Chapter members Bobby White, Jerry Alvis (Vice President), and Ken Rice (President)

attracting attendance at the chapter quarterly meetings. The demographics, needs, and wants of "retirees" are changing. Well, voicing thoughts and concerns generated ideas.

One of these came from David "Tiny" Nelson, Vice President of the Watts Bar Chapter, who suggested doing something new such as organizing a golf tournament to recruit new members and raise money for the organization.

"We've lost our cutting edge on recruitment — by continuing to do everything as we always have," Nelson says.

Ideas flowed enthusiastically on celebrating the anniversary and ranged from making the annual retirees picnic in September a celebration bash to having regional celebrations, even on the TVA barge or a



Watts Bar's Tiny Nelson

bus tour with stops at TVA sites.

The resounding theme of ideas was in creating ways to recognize and honor the pioneers of our association. Read on to see how you can be a part of this great TVARA heritage celebration

Loving wrapped up the meetings by challenging each of the chapters to develop three to five new initiatives for the coming year. He suggested these initiatives be in one of the following five areas:

- Growing chapter membership
- Planning a health-and-fitness project such as a health fair
- Strengthening advocacy representation by identifying members with ties to local and state officials
- Finding ways to increase civic involvement through volunteer projects
- Identifying a special way the chapter can celebrate the TVARA heritage

"A big part of our challenge is to educate retirees about the past contributions of the organization to their current quality of life," Loving says. "Many retirees are benefiting by having richer retirement benefits and better health insurance due to the organization's close working relationship with TVA."

— THERESA HABIGER

CELEBRATING FOUR DECADESA CALL FOR ACTION

We have received a lot of enthusiastic input to consider on how best to celebrate TVARA's turning 40.

Whatever form this year of celebration takes, it will be a massive undertaking, and we are putting out a call for "All Hands on Deck!"

Those Ideas we heard most often and seem appropriate and feasible include:

- Annual Picnic with special "Birthday" activities
- Commemorative historical video
- Contests
- Individual chapters' history research work
- Visits to/tours of TVA facilities
- Regional celebrations
- Community promotions via Speakers' Bureau
- Special chapter community volunteer projects
- Publicity blitz
- Recognizing our "Partners" who have supported TVARA in the past

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN PUTTING TOGETHER THIS PARTY!

What a great way for us to come together as a community of retirees! It offers us a way to call upon buried or newfound talents & skills. Even more so, think about the chance to get together with old and new acquaintances.

Volunteer!

Mail, call or email us what you'd like to do (phone number & addresses on back page).

AND THE SURVEY SAYS . .

As part of January's regional sessions with the TVARA chapter officers, we took a poll. We were interested in learning more about our future through our past. There were more than 70 people who participated in the meetings, and we received some fairly consistent themes both in our survey and the dialogue that took place at the time.

You read earlier about feedback on how to ensure the Association continues its legacy. Below, you'll find what we offer that brought us here.

Specifically, in the survey we asked this question:

"WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF TVARA?"

As you read the responses, please ask yourself "Why?" as well. And if you are not a member of TVARA, an important question we must ask ourselves as an association is "Why Not?" *The question was actually made in two parts:*

WHAT ATTRACTS YOU TO THE ASSOCIATION?

- Fellowship with other retirees; seeing old friends
- Benefits achieved for retirees over the years; show support and appreciation for results of efforts of the past
- Long-term interest in TVA; remaining a "part" of TVA
- · Keeping an awareness of what is going on at TVA
- Dissemination of important information to retirees; TVARA is keeping me informed on my benefits
- Quarterly chapter programs
- Having a voice in retirement; TVARA is the only organization that speaks on my behalf regarding retirement
- · Learning about people and places I did not work with during my career
- Chance to use my interest and skills to help others in our chapter's volunteer projects

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

- · Keep us informed of what is going on in TVA and TVARA; information on insurance and benefits
- · Represent us in sustaining our benefits
- Members to participate more come to meetings; each member needs to fully support the TVARA
- · Make the organization continue to improve and move forward
- Sharing of program ideas with other chapters
- Strength in numbers; figure out how to recruit newer retirees to join and be active
- Be able to attract new leadership so we don't wear some folks out
- Keeping up with how the TVA Retirement System is doing consistent reports
- · Working with TVA on our medical insurance
- Recognition
- Leadership to do the best it can for members; protect our rights
- To make a difference

Maybe you shared some of the same thoughts as you read along. We are fortunate to have had such strong leadership and commitment to purpose as we have experienced over time.

The benefits offered by TVARA are comprehensive and shared by a large population: its members, all TVA retirees and someday-to-be retirees, retiree families, our communities, and TVA.

NO MORE EXCUSES .

Has your New Year's Resolution to become more fit found its way to your "I would if I could" list? Well, it's time to separate fitness fact from fitness fiction.

1. Exercise has to be strenuous to be beneficial. TRUE or FALSE? FALSE! You don't have to push yourself to extremes to get the benefits from exercise. In fact, if you exercise excessively, you run the risk of overtraining. Moderate-intensity exercise, such as walking at 3.5 mph on a treadmill, will provide you with most health benefits.

2. Exercise always makes you hungry. TRUE or FALSE?

courtesy of Livewell

FALSE! Fortunately, the opposite can be true. Intense exercise actually can suppress your appetite, at least for a while. Exercise also helps you control your appetite by making you more aware of how your body feels. You can focus on giving your body only what it needs — not more than it needs.

3. Exercise keeps you up all night. TRUE or FALSE?

FALSE! As long as you don't exercise within three to four hours of your bedtime, the opposite is true. Exercise contributes to a more restful sleep and makes you more alert in your daily life.

OUT AND ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

As discussed in the recent regional meetings, TVARA and its retirees' volunteer activities in the community are a vital piece of who we are and what we want to be, both individually and as an association.

Building on these efforts is one of the initiatives our chapters will be undertaking in this commemorative year for TVARA.

As heard during the meetings and read about in newsletters, our membership has found no tasks too large or too small when it comes to lending a helping hand.

The Gallatin Chapter has enjoyed a rewarding year of such good work.

During many months of the last year, members (and diligent spouses) served as volunteers for more than 5,000 4H students in Sumner County, Tenn.

Activities included assisting kids with events at the county fair, serving as judges in Dairy Month, teaching water safety in schools, and most importantly providing role-model guidance in life through the "Reality Store."

The Reality Store gives each student an assignment in making ends meet, playing the role as being married, single or divorced; with/without one or more children; and with a specified income.

The TVARA members help them to balance their checkbook and make sure they don't overspend when buying life's necessities. President Al Goguen wears a big smile knowing that "working with these kids is a very gratifying experience."

Chattanooga Chapter members' hands helped in a number of ways during the holidays.

More than 100 members who attended the December meeting "sang for their supper" by bringing, and then wrapping, gifts for area children in shelters.

Some of the group then left that meeting to join hands with other volunteers to spend hours bagging groceries for families in need in the area as part of the Department of Human Services Commodities Distribution program.

Let me tell you, Lawrence and Mary Lou Bryant as a team are taskmasters on that assembly line!

We would like to hear about your chapter volunteer projects and activities.

Please send information and pictures to us at tvara@tva.gov.



Al Goguen (left) and Ed Brawner, surrounded by their 4H friends



We're a'wrappin' ...



... and we're a'baggin'.

t was one of those days in mid-January, 1971, when, given a choice, you'd rather have stayed in bed.

Temperatures in the 20s, slight north wind, ice covering all water that's not running, 4:30 a.m. — and you're in appropriately named "Paradise," Ky.

On this particular day, after breakfast and a thorough pre-flight inspection of our military surplus Bell 47J model helicopter, we cranked its engine and departed our parking area.

If everything went well, TVA scientists would gain a little more knowledge of the gases and solid particulates that were being emitted from the smokestacks at TVA's Paradise Fossil Fuel Plant.

Aboard our helicopter this time to direct our flight pattern was TVA Air Quality Branch Scientist John Blackwell. John would operate our sampling equipment; direct flight patterns, airspeeds and altitudes to be flown; and monitor, adjust and operate the sampling equipment.

Our helicopter and equipment had been checked for proper operations, and we were moving out.

While not particularly fond of cold air, I was very aware that its presence would help our 'copter perform better. The main rotor blades would get additional lift out of the cold, dense air.

And since we were operating at near-maximum gross weight, the extra lift meant easier helicopter maneuvering, a quicker climb to altitude, and less strain on the engine.

We departed our parking area to make our flights through the smoke plume to measure ambient levels of SO₂.

Initially, we would cross the plume's center as close to the stack as possible. Each subsequent flight would take us farther down the plume to a point where readings on our emissions-monitoring equipment would become insignificant.

We worked the plume for about 45 minutes, then made a spiral climb up a couple of thousand feet while taking ambient temperature measurements.



After about two hours of flying time, we concluded our sampling because of weather conditions.

John then attempted to contact one of his co-workers at an air-quality-monitoring station near the plant. Unable to make radio contact, John asked me to fly over the station to see if a vehicle or person was there.

Seeing nothing, we put the helicopter in a normal climb configuration at 45-mph airspeed and a 500-foot-aminute rate of climb.

Then at an altitude of 300 feet, our world almost ended. With a TNT-like boom from the rear, our helicopter lurched hard right with an extreme lownose attitude.

Momentarily, I could see vertical railroad tracks. But reflexes from years of flying took over. Down went the collective pitch lever, as I closed the throttle and slapped the cyclic stick back into my stomach.

Then a near miracle occurred. Up came the helicopter nose, we quit turning, and I managed to gain some control. While we were descending at about 1,800 feet per minute, I could hear John calling "Mayday, Mayday" on the radio.

For a split second, everything started to look okay. Then I saw the two power lines directly in our flight path. We were closing in on them fast.

With no engine power and little

More Telling of TVA Stories(Send your story to the TVARA email or mail addresses on back page.)

Buel Springer: 'Then at an altitude of 300 feet, our world almost ended. With a TNT-like boom from the rear, our helicopter lurched hard right'

control, I jerked the collective lever up, jumped the power lines, and then slammed the collective lever down again — just as we approached the ground.

As I attempted to forestall an almost certain crash, I once again jerked the collective lever up. Again a small miracle occurred.

With more hope than confidence, I somehow leveled the 'copter just as its skids struck the ground. We bounced slightly and stopped about 6 feet from touchdown, close to a guard-shack entrance at Paradise.

After sitting in the pilot's seat momentarily, I jumping to the ground and was greeted by John with one big bear hug. You can bet I was glad to get that hug! It meant we were still alive.

Awaiting the crew that John had managed to reach, the two of us pondered our situation.

We had been through one hairraising experience. Our helicopter had lost its tail-rotor blades, gearbox, and guard, along with the tail-boom extension and fin.

Given its center-of-gravity condition, the aircraft should have been uncontrollable, and we should have crashed nose-first into the ground. Yet, except for the parts lost in flight, the 'copter was unscratched.

After making arrangements for the helicopter to be taken back to the Muscle Shoals maintenance hangar for repairs, we checked out of the motel, gathered our belongings, and headed home.

Some things you just can't explain.

by Becky Thomason

BENEFITS UPDATE Eligible for Medicare? Reminders from TVA, BlueCross BlueShield

nost people become eligible for Medicare at age 65. If you or your covered dependent are enrolled in a TVA-sponsored PPO medical plan (80percent. Copayment, Consumer-Directed Health Plan), your coverage will automatically be transferred to the Medicare Supplement plan when you reach 65.

Before you turn 65, you will receive a letter from the TVA Service Center about your Medicare Supplement coverage, and you will be asked to provide a copy of your Medicare identification card so that TVA will have your Medicare identification number.

Failure to provide your Medicare identification number could mean that you will see a delay in receiving plan benefits under the Medicare Supplement, including prescription-drug benefits.

When a retiree or dependent covered under one of the PPO medical plans becomes eligible for Medicare, that individual is no longer eligible to continue coverage in one of the PPO plans. Coverage must be transferred to the Medicare supplement plan.

IMPORTANT: If you, or your covered dependent, become eligible for Medicare before age 65, you must notify the TVA Service Center, so your enrollment can be transferred to the Medicare Supplement plan.

Failure to notify TVA of your Medicare eligibility could result in your having to repay the amount of claims that were paid incorrectly. You will also need to provide a copy of your Medicare identification card as noted

Other reminders from TVA Employee Benefits: When you become eligible for Medicare, it's important that you look at Medicare Part B, which provides coverage for physician services and certain other expenses. If you do not enroll in Part B when first eligible, you may find yourself without coverage for physician and other expenses.

Employee Benefits also reminds retirees that the TVA Medicare Supplement plan includes prescriptiondrug coverage under Medicare Part D so a retiree does not have to elect a separate Part D plan upon becoming eligible for Medicare.

When a retiree or covered dependent is transferred to the Medicare Supplement plan, coverage for remaining family members in one of the PPO plans will continue until those members become eligible for Medicare.

To notify the TVA Service Center of your Medicare eligibility before age 65, vou can call toll-free at 1-888-275-8094 or send an email to esc@tva.gov.

Reminder from BlueCross BlueShield about filing claims under Medicare and your TVA Medicare Supplement

When You Need to File a Claim:

Whenever you receive services from a healthcare provider, or are admitted to a hospital, be sure to show both cards: your Medicare card and your subscriber identification card.

- 1. The doctor or facility's billing office will file your claim for you with Medicare.
- 2. After paying, Medicare typically will forward payment details to BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.
- 3. With those details, your TVA benefits can be paid.

If your claims are not crossing over to be paid under your Medicare Supplement after Medicare pays, you need to contact BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee toll-free at 1-800-245-7942 and verify that your Medicare identification number (HCIN) has been loaded.

AND WITH THE NEW YEAR ... A NEW ADDITION

Vou will recall, in December we put the word out that we were looking for a valuable new addition to our organization - someone to serve as a part-time Executive Assistant to our TVARA Board of Directors.

The new position will be responsible for general office administration and administrative support. It hosts challenges of anchoring the organization's continuity of operations, given the geographically dispersed and changing faces of the board members.

Response to the request was even better than expected; we were delighted to be reacquainted with talented friends and co-workers (now enjoying retirement!) during the selection process. We appreciate everyone who enthusiastically stepped forward.

Welcome, Reba, to the job. Reba Whitson began her TVA career in the Appalachian District office in 1977.

With more than 28 years of service performing administrative and secretarial duties throughout many organizations, she retired in May 2006.

Reba still has that spark and glow for work that slow-

ly burns away for some after a long career. Even more so, her spark carried into retirement will not be easily extinguished. She puts her vision well into words.

"I am very proud to be a member of the TVA Retirees Association," she says. "I feel the value of the working relationship the association has with TVA and the TVA Re- Board Executive Seceretary tirement System is extremely



Reba Whitson, TVARA

important in continuing to keep the benefit programs available to retirees and keeping retirees informed on important issues. I am excited and honored that I have been selected to serve as the Executive Assistant for the TVA Retirees Association."

With Reba's help, the TVARA Board looks forward to a successful and productive year.

ROWENA BELCHER

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

BROWNS FERRY

March 13, 6 p.m. Catfish Cabin II, Athens Jerry Olson, *President* 256-351-2133

jo2003@charter.net Stan Hinkle, Vice President Patricia Huffman, Secretary Margaret Olson, Treasurer

CHATTANOOGA

March 13, 10 a.m. Brainerd United Methodist Church

> Tom Swanson. President 423-344-6892

twswanson@comcast.net Vacant, Vice President Yvonne Nowell, Secretary Cid Heidel, Treasurer

CLEVELAND

March 9, 11 a.m. First Baptist Church

Adult Activities Bldg. Don Morrow, President

423-479-6820

morrowcd@bellsouth.net Billy Rievely, Vice President Gerald Brooks, Secretary John Sharp, Treasurer

FLORIDA

To Be Announced Terry Ark, *President* 407-568-3325

tdark@bellsouth.net Patrick Hughes, Vice President Nick Kazanas, Secretary Nick Kazanas, Treasurer

GALLATIN

March 14, 1p.m. King Solomon Masonic Lodge Al Goguen, President

615-325-6938

goquen68@comcast.net Edward Brawner Jr, Vice President Jackie Carter, Secretary Jackie Carter. Treasurer

HUNTSVILLE

March 8, 10 a.m. TVA offices, 108 Woodsen St.

Frank Holm, President

256-852-2195

frankandbeckholm@aol.com Calvin Underwood, Vice President Dories Layne, Secretary Harold Williams, Treasurer

JACKSON

March 13, 10 a.m St John Masonic Lodge

Bobby McWherter, President

731-668-4490

bobwandamc@jaxnet.net Reggie Barnett, Vice President Paula Morgan. Secretary Thomas Silvers. Treasurer

JOHNSONVILLE

March 8, 10:30 a.m. Four Seasons Restaurant, Camden

Randall W. Clark, President 731-584-7629

rwclark29@charter.net Jerry Duncan, Vice President Charles E. Brown, Secretary Bradley N. Blackburn, Treasurer

KINGSTON

March 26, 10:45 a.m. Kingston Community Center

Glen Brummitt. President 865-882-1581

glennpatsyB@comcast.net Windle Raper, Vice President Ruth Lentz, Secretary Geraldine Smith, Treasurer

KNOXVILLE

March 8, 10:30 a.m. O'Connor Senior Citizens Center

Dan Herron, President 865-693-2410

dan.herron@comcast.net Linda DeLozier, Vice President Virginia Jacobs, Secretary Ron Hooten. Treasurer

MEMPHIS

March 20, 11 a.m. Ryan's Steakhouse on Riverside Rick Flurry, President

662-429-3321

nannyflurry@aol.com Raymond Burton, Vice President Marie Smith, Secretary Marie Smith. Treasurer

MISSISSIPPI

March 13, 10:30 a.m. Tupelo Customer Service Center Danny Brewington, President 662-680-4309

dannybrew@peoplepc.com Ebb L. Loden Jr., Vice President William L. Irwin, Secretary Carl A. Keltner, Treasurer

MUSCLE SHOALS

March 13, 10 a.m. ERC Auditorium Debbie Norton. President 256-764-8401

deb35630@comcast.net Tony Casson, Vice President Dot Stewart Secretary Bill Snoddy, Treasurer

NASHVILLE

March 13, 10 a.m. Piccadilly on Murfeesboro Road.

Alvin R. Brown, President 615-370-9015

abrownsr@bellsouth.net Roland Streeter, Vice President Johnnie Hosfield, Secretary Dave Ross, Treasurer

NORTHEAST ALABAMA

March 13, 10 a.m.

Mud Creek Restaurant, Hollywood

Charles A. Roper. President

256-495-2992

artro@juno.com John W. Mashburn, Vice President B. Joan Bevel, Secretary Betty Watson, Treasurer

PADUCAH

March 20, 10 a.m. Paducah Executive Inn

Clinton Horton, *President*

270-354-9346

inakylake@mchsi.com

Ken Dickerson. Vice President Glen Tankersly, Secretary Kenneth Schuppert, Treasurer

PARADISE

March 13, 10:30 a.m. Catfish Dock, Powderly

Darrell Sisk, President

270-934-8381

thesisks@logantele.com Gary Southerland, Vice President Peggy Sisk, Secretary Jimmie Bruce, Treasurer

PICKWICK

March 20, 10 a.m. Pickwick Inn

Charlotte Daniel. President

662-423-5377

Robert Smith. Vice President Dorothy Shaw, Secretary Dorothy Shaw. Treasurer

UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

March 8, 11:30 a.m. Golden Corral, Morristown

Ken Rice. President 865-377-3078

ken2kaye2r@comcast.net Jerry Alvis, Vice President Charlie Ratliff, Secretary Charlie Ratliff, Treasurer

WATTS BAR

March 12, 10:30 a.m. Big Red Barn, Spring City

Kathleen Garrison. President

423-365-9048

eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net Charles David "Tiny" Nelson, Vice President Sylvia Cash, Secretary Ernestine Simpson, Treasurer

WESTERN AREA

March 21, 10:30 a.m. Paris Landing State Park

Paul Russell, President 731-642-1222

Larry Doyle, Vice President Retta Balentine, Secretary Robert Smith, Treasurer

NOT A MEMBER OF TVARA? WELL . . . YOU SHOULD BE!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All retired TVA employees, former TVA employees, active employees whose combined age and years of service total 80, and the spouses of such employees, are eligible to become members.

Include a check payable to TVARA for \$15 for 2007 dues along with this completed form to: TVARA, 400 West Summit Hill Drive WT2A, Knoxville, TN 37902-1401			
Name:			
Street Address:			
City: _		_ State:	Zip Code:
Email	Address:		

is included on previous pages) TAARA Chapter President (this Information @ 1-865-632-3318 or contact your local Contact — tvrara@tva.gov or call toll-free TARA Membership or Newsletter Information

> 1-888-275-8094 Contact — Employee Service Center Medical and Drug Coverage

efiedeW tisiv no 6785-428-008-1 ⊚ Contact — TVA Retirement System Pension Benefits and 401(k) Accounts For Information Regarding:

> Knoxville, TN 37902-9901 400 W. Summit Hill Drive TVA Retirement System For Address Changes Notify:

sible representative of retirees in conveying retiree views. their interests. It has been recognized by TVA as the responto help keep them informed of TVA developments affecting interests of TVA and its retirees, or their beneficiaries, and TAN retirees. It was organized to serve the varied mutual The TVA Retirees Association is the official organization of all

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The Tennessee Valley Retirees Association

